



## Capitol Region Watershed District

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# Water Quality Planning Grants

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## Overview

Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD) Water Quality Planning Grants provide financial assistance for feasibility and design of cost-effective and/or innovative projects that protect and improve the water quality of waterbodies within CRWD. Typical projects funded through this program include feasibility studies and engineering services to identify, prioritize, and design capital improvement projects that include benefits to natural resources. Water Quality Planning Grants will typically provide much of the information needed to apply for construction funds through CRWD's Water Quality Capital Improvement Grant.

## GOALS

- Identify innovative, cost-effective solutions for protecting and improving water quality of CRWD lakes, streams, and wetlands and the Mississippi River
- Develop designs including preliminary and final plans, for water quality improvement projects
- Improve our understanding of best practices to protect and improve local water resources
- Build capacity for partners to accelerate on-the-ground projects that protect and improve water quality

## APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

- Government agencies working in CRWD
- Public and private schools located within CRWD
- Nonprofit, faith-based or religious organizations serving within CRWD
- Businesses and other private property owners who are located within CRWD

## PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

- Stormwater feasibility studies to identify and prioritize project opportunities and types in CRWD
- Evaluate potential projects that may address water-resource-related issues
- Professional design of cost-effective and/or innovative projects with construction costs anticipated to exceed \$40,000 including: stormwater BMPs, erosion stabilization, shoreline restoration, and habitat improvement
- Projects must include identification of public educational opportunities
- Projects required to meet regulations are not eligible. Projects may be eligible for partial funding of the design aspects that are above-and-beyond required treatment.

## FUNDING AND APPLICATION CYCLE

- Typical annual funding available: \$100,000
- Average grant award: \$20,000

- Application cycle: Ongoing

## Application Evaluation

Water Quality Planning Grant applications will be evaluated on the following 4 criteria:

- 1. Potential Water Resource Management effectiveness and efficiency (40 points)**
  - a. Water quality benefit: The project site has potential for a cost-effective water quality improvement project (25 points)
  - b. Other natural resource benefit: The project addresses another environmental issue (habitat, erosion, urban heat island etc.) (10 points)
  - c. Watershed Management Plan: The project directly addresses issues and goals identified in CRWD’s Watershed Management Plan (5 points)
  
- 2. Education and Demonstration Potential (25 points)**
  - a. Located in an area highly visible/accessible to the public (15 points)
  - b. Located in an underserved community as defined by CRWD (10 points)
  
- 3. Innovation Potential (25 points)**
  - a. Potential for innovative projects or approach already identified (10 points)
  - b. One of the first projects of its kind within CRWD (10 points)
  - c. Likelihood of future acceptance and implementation (5 points)
  
- 4. Project Readiness (10 points)**
  - a. Planning project is well-defined and likely to be completed within two years (5 points)
  - b. Planning project likely to result in a future physical project or other action (5 points)

<b>Evaluation Criteria</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>
Potential Water Resource Management Effectiveness	40
Education and Demonstration	25
Innovation Potential	25
Project Readiness	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

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